

REMARKS

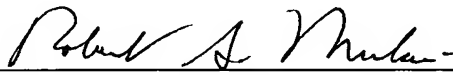
By the instant Amendment, a typographical error has been corrected in claims 7-11 so that the claims follow the format of original claim 6 (now canceled) on which they were patterned. With respect to the restriction requirement set forth in the Official Action, applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group I which currently contains claims 1-3 and 7-11. Although this election is made without traverse, applicants reserve the right to request rejoinder of appropriate process claims pursuant to the provisions of MPEP §821.04 if any of the claims now under consideration are found allowable or to file a divisional application relating to the non-elected subject matter.

Favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested. In this regard, applicants note the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 20, 2002, and request that the acknowledged citation form be provided with the next Official Action.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 2, 2003